

7-11-08 3:00 PM
192203

April 24, 2008

Commissioner Hamilton and the SC Public Utilities Commission
101 Executive Drive Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Julia Frugoli & Harry Kurtz
310 Silver Creek Rd
Central, SC 29630

Dear Chairman Hamilton and the Commission,

We would like to especially thank to commission for suspending the usual procedural rules of the commission's meeting to allow public comment on net metering at your Earth Day meeting of April 22, 2008. We feel the hearing particularly benefitted from this, not necessarily because of the specifics of the testimony (we ourselves commented on a set of rules that weren't the subject of the meeting) but because of the themes that emerged from the testimony taken as a whole. We also want to point out that while attending the meeting was difficult for us (rearranging our courses and a 5 hour round trip drive), it has saved us thousands of dollars, which we will explain in a moment.

One of the themes that came through loud and clear to us was the need to move quickly on a set of regulations. Our mistake of believing the interconnectivity rules for Duke were the net metering rules was due to the information given our solar provider by Duke employees that answer the public phone lines. In talking to the lawyer for Duke, she explained that they could not publicly post the rules or mention them because they weren't yet approved-they only existed in one of the many evidentiary files on the docket for this meeting. Thus callers to Duke asking about interconnectivity are directed to the current rules. The difference between the proposed rules and the present rules is at least a thousand dollars worth of extra equipment that we are within two months of purchasing. If regulations are not approved soon and publicized, other people will either invest in equipment they don't need or be discouraged from generating by high costs that may not be necessary.

Related to this is the need for public communication. We found out about this meeting 3 days before it was held, because of a posting on an environmental website (which had the wrong time for the meeting). Our solar provider, the Green Building

RECEIVED

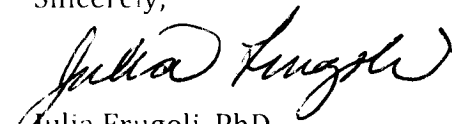
05

15010
MAIL/DMS


Council, and the other interested parties we asked had not heard about it. When we contacted our senator about it, he encouraged us to attend. Thus we had a day or so to prepare. We are sure there was much more public comment out there than the commission heard, but we are also sure the meeting was quite long enough for all of us.

We left the meeting encouraged that the commission will consider all the comments made, even if they were not always well informed (on both the public and the utilities sides!) and with a new appreciation of the complexity of the work you do. We ask that you issue a ruling as soon as possible, even if it is only a pilot program with date to come back and reevaluate, so that those of us with renewable generating capacity can move forward. And again, thank you for allowing testimony that was not pre-submitted to be heard.

Sincerely,



Julia Frugoli, PhD



Harry D Kurtz, Jr, PhD